

Kevin Collins Tradition Golf Club 37 Harrison Rd Wallingford, CT 06492

Mr. Paul Stacey
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
Planning and Standards Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

BUREAU OF THE BUREAU CHIEF

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Mr. Stacey:

I am writing this letter to oppose the proposed stream flow standards and regulations. As the golf course superintendent of a small daily fee facility I am very concerned about the fiscal impact these proposed regulations will have on the golf industry during these economic times. It seems to me that the first thing needed to be done is that all water bodies be classified. Once the water bodies are classified a financial study should be done to see how these new standards will affect the small business, water companies and ultimately the water consumer in our state. The costs of doing business may get too great forcing many golf courses and other small business to shut down.

As golf course superintendents, we are very judicial with our water usage. In the last ten years the water usage on golf courses has been reduced greatly. Golf courses water as little as possible, when turf gets too wet it promotes fungus and poor turf quality, which will drive away customers. The companies who manufacture sprinklers have improved the technology so much over the last decade, allowing us to water less but much more efficiently. It is in every golf courses best interest to conserve water and have worked closely with the DEP to develop the Best Management Practices for Golf Course Water Use.

As was reported at the December 21 information hearing, golf course irrigation practices account for less than 1 percent by volume of the registered and permitted water diversion in the state. It was also reported that less than one half of one percent of the state's water bodies are considered "at risk". Based on these facts I would ask the DEP to narrow the proposed regulations to these at risk water bodies rather than apply blanket standards over water bodies that are not in any danger.

Sincerely,

Kevin Collins

Golf Course Superintendent

Tradition Golf Club of Wallingford

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